

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An underwater storage installation for storing a cryogenic liquid, ~~particularly liquefied natural gas, of the type~~ the installation comprising:

[[-]] ~~a base acting as a foundation and resting~~ (14) on the sea bed (16);

[[-]] at least one underwater storage cell (18) for storing the cryogenic liquid[[,]] ~~this storage cell~~ (18) and being connected to the base ~~that acts as a foundation~~ (14);

[[-]] at least one support column (20) rising from the at least one storage cell (18) to above the water level;

[[-]] a platform (6), ~~particularly a liquefied gas production platform,~~ mounted on the support column (20);

[[-]] cryogenic liquid supply (22) and discharge (24) pipes running between the storage cell (18) and the platform; (6);

~~characterized in that the storage cell (18) comprises~~ comprising a closed outer enclosure ~~made of concrete~~ (40), a vapor barrier (60) arranged inside the outer enclosure (40) and defining a watertight space inside the barrier, ~~in that the outer enclosure (40) and the vapor barrier (60) define~~ defining a first annular space (70) between them[[,]]; ~~in that the storage cell (18) comprises~~

spacer pieces (80) arranged in ~~said the~~ the first annular space (70) ~~which shaped and positioned~~ to hold the enclosure (40) and the vapor barrier (60) some spaced a distance from one another, in that ~~the installation comprises~~

~~drainage means~~ (50) suited elements operable to draining drain off any water that might enter and accumulate in ~~said the~~ the first space; (70), ~~in that it comprises~~

a self-supporting cryogenic liquid storage tank inside the barrier, the tank being sized and shaped such that (90), ~~and in that the storage tank (90) and the vapor barrier (60) define a second~~

separating space between them; and (100) in which thermal insulation (110) is placed in the second space.

2. (Currently Amended) The storage installation as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the drainage means elements comprise at least one or several drainage sumps (50) formed sump in the a lower part (42) of the outer enclosure (40), and in that the drainage sump (50) is connected to a water discharge means (52, 54) device connected to the drainage sump.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The storage installation as claimed in ~~either one of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the vapor barrier (60) ~~is made~~ is comprised of a metal sheet[[,]] ~~particularly one made of standard carbon steel with no special cryogenic properties.~~

4. (Currently Amended) Storage installation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the self-supporting storage tank is ~~made~~ comprised of special cryogenic steel ~~(9% nickel or stainless steel).~~

5. (Currently Amended) The storage installation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the thermal insulation is of perlite (114) or glass wool (112).

6. (Currently Amended) The storage installation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the spacer pieces (80) are ~~made~~ comprised of plastic[[,]] ~~particularly of thermoset resin.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The storage installation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises~~ claim 1, further comprising at least two of the storage cells

(18), and ~~in that it comprises~~, a respective one of the support columns for each of the storage cell cells (18), ~~a support column (20)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~, further comprising for each of the storage cells (18), ~~the installation (2) comprises~~ a respective set of pipes comprising at least one ~~individual~~ respective supply pipe (22) and at least one individual respective discharge pipe (24) for ~~this the~~ storage cell (18), and ~~in that~~ each set of pipes runs along inside the respective support column (20).

9. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 7, wherein the support column (20) of at least one storage cell (18) is arranged on ~~an opposite~~ a side of the at least one storage cell that is opposite and away from a side of the at least one cell that is toward (18) to at least one other of the storage cells cell (18).

10. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that it further comprises~~ claim 1, further comprising a transfer installation connected to the platform and operable (10) ~~designed~~ to transfer cryogenic liquid from the platform (6) to a transport ship (12).

11. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transfer installation (10) comprises a jib connected to and operable to (13A) ~~that can~~ move with respect to the platform; ~~(6) and~~ rigid pipes (13B) arranged along ~~this the~~ jib (13A), ~~together with~~ a set of flexible pipes (13C) mounted at the end of the rigid pipes, wherein (13B), and ~~in that the flexible pipes (13C) are designed to be connected~~ connectable to the transport ship (12).

12. (New) The installation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer enclosure is comprised of concrete.

13. (New) The installation as claimed in claim 3, wherein the vapor barrier is comprised of standard carbon steel with no special cryogenic properties.

14. (New) The installation as claimed in claim 4, wherein the tank is comprised of 9% nickel or stainless steel.

15. (New) The installation as claimed in claim 4, wherein the spacers are comprised of a thermoset resin.